(viii) The Transport Department, Government of Delhi had, between March, 1990 and November, 1993, checked approximately 11.59 lakh vehicles.

(ix) Private petrol pumps and workshops numbering 120 have been authorised by the Department of Transport, Govt. of Delhi for pollution checking tuning of polluting vehicles and issuance of Pollution under Control Certificates. Approximately, 12,01 lakh vehicles have availed this facility between July, 1990 and November 1993. Of these, 3.25 lakh polluting vehicles have been tuned and pollution emitted from these vehicles have been brought within the prescribed standards.

(x) It has been decided to introduce unleaded petrol in Delhi from April 1, 1995, for new four wheeler petrol driven vehicles fitted with catalytic converters.

Environment clearance of New Coal Mines

1094. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any guidelines have been framed regarding quality of coal, particularly with reference to the ash content, for according environmental clearances for new coal mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the weightage given to the ash contents in coal while according environmental clearances;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor, keeping in view that high ash content coal tends to pollute the environment;

(d) whether any action has been taken or contemplated to stop mining of such quality of coal which has ash content or more than a specified limit; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Keeping in view that high ash content coal tends to pollute the environment, several stringent conditions are being stipulated to minimise the adverse impacts while according environmental clearance.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Indian coals by their very nature have a higher ash content compared to those from many countries. It is, therefore, not advisable to make any stipulations in this regard.

Use of Aircraft frum UNDP

1095. SHRI V. GUPALSAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how many aircrafts Government took from UNDP in the past;

(b) the details of these aircrafts and the purpose for which each aircrafts was used in the past;

(c) how many aircrafts are presently left with Government; and

(d) whether there had been any loss of aircraft in the past; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests received one helicopter and one airplane from UNDP, the details of which are as under:

1. Lama Helicopter VT-ELY

2 Piper Seneca III Airplane VT-EOZ.

These aircrafts were acquired by the Ministry as part of a UNDP—assisted project on Modern Forest Fire Control Methods. The project came to an end in 1990-91, and the aircrafts continued to

remain in the possession of the Ministry, and were used for forestry and afforestation-related work and Ministry related activities.

On 11.5.94 One Bell Jet Ranger Helicopter VT-DYP was also received by this Ministry. This helicopter was initially given by UNDP to the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Forests during 1967 for a project named "Pre-Investment Survey of Forest Resources'. This aircraft has not been put to use by the Ministry so far, as it is not yet airworthy.

(c) Two helicopters.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Piper Seneca III aircraft crashed on 25th August, 1994 at a spot near Karauli village in Sawai Madhopur district of Rajasthan.

Countries Exporting Toxic Waste to India

1096. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem in the 'Pioneer' New Delhi dated the 18th October, 1994 under the caption "Australia, US exporting toxic waste to India".

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon;

(c) the reasons for importing the toxic waste in the country;

(d) whether Government propose to stop this import and if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India's officials had discussions with a delegation from Australia on 18 October, 1994. These discussions were mainly on the present hazardous waste regulations of both the countries and the implications of Decision II/12 of the Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. According to this decision all transboundary movement of hazardous wastes from OECD to non-OECD States destined for final disposal is prohibited with immediate effect and those destined for recycling or recovery operations are to be phased out and prohibited from 31 December, 1997.

(c) Wastes are imported into the country essentially as a raw material for recycling and recovery of materials such as metals, oil etc. These wastes are usually available at more economical rates than virgin material. A large number of secondary manufacturing units in India are dependent on such wastes as raw materials.

(d) and (e) The Government of India Ministry of Environment and Forests, have notified the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989, which provides for regulating the generation, collection, storage, transport, treatment, disposal and import of hazardous wastes. According to Rule 11 the import of hazardous wastes from any country to India is not permitted for dumping and disposal, However, import of such wastes may be allowed for processing or reuse as raw materials, after examining each case on merit. Any import of hazardous wastes would come under the purview of these regulations.

सिक्किम में आरक्षित वन भूमि पर होटलों का निर्माण

1097. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह:** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री 24 अगस्त, 1994 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 3843 के दिये गये उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उनके मंत्रालय ने सिक्किम राज्य के भूतपूर्व वन मंत्री द्वारा सिंगवा में आरक्षित वन भूमि तथा यमथंग में वन विभाग की वन कुटीर (फारेस्ट लूट) पर अवैध कब्जा करने के संबंध में क्षेत्रीय मुख्य वन-संरक्षक से प्राप्त